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*NEW YORK STATE BAR ADMISSION PENDING

April 24, 2008

Mr. Lance Abramson
Spoor & Fisher
P.O. Box 41312
Craighall, South Africa

Re: U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 09/937,976
Your Ref.: PA 126894/US
Our Ref.: 0073/65994

Dear Lance:

We enclose a copy of an Office Action dated April 4, 2008 and cited references which we received in the above-identified application.

We look forward to receiving your instructions in sufficient time to prepare and file our response by the **July 4, 2008** due date.

Very truly yours,


Richard F. Jaworski

0073/6599E

APR 28 2008

APR - 8 2008

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/937,976

Applicant(s) ATTIEH, MARK RUSSELL

Examiner JOHN M. WINTER

Art Unit 3621

BFJ

The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address -
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 52-54, 57-59, 61, 63, 65 and 67-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 52-54, 57-59, 61, 63, 65 and 67-72 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____



DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgements

The Applicants amendment filed on February 19, 2008 is hereby acknowledged, Claims 52 - 66 remain pending .A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 19, 2008has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 52-54, 57-59, 61, 63, 65 and 67-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heindel et al. (US Patent 6,304,857) in view of Randle et al. (US Patent 5,974,146) and further in view of Picciallo (US Patent 6,044,360).

As per claim 52,

Heindel et al. ('857) discloses A method for conducting financial transactions comprising:

providing an intermediate database (Figure 1, element 40)

providing an intermediate database computer for controlling the intermediate database,(Figure 1)

linking a first terminal identifier of a first communication device to a first account number of a first account; storing the linked first terminal identifier and the first account number in the intermediate database within receiving from the first communication device via a communication network, information to be used to identify a the first terminal identifier of the first communication device,(Column 7, lines 16-50 – figure 3)

accessing the intermediate database and using the first terminal identifier of the first communication device to obtain the first account number;(Column 8, lines 23-39)

Heindel et al. ('857) does not explicitly disclose using the first account number to communicate a signal to interrogate the first account to determine whether sufficient funds are available in the first account to effect payment; and when it is determined that sufficient funds are available, communicating a signal to debit the first account and to credit the second account.

Randle ('146) discloses using the first account number to communicate a signal to interrogate the first account to determine whether sufficient funds are available in the first account to effect payment; and when it is determined that sufficient funds are available, communicating a signal to debit the first account and to credit the second account (column 10, lines 31-41) It would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Heindel et

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al. ('857)'s system with Randle ('146)'s teaching in order to limit the prosecution of fraudulent transactions.

Heindel et al. ('857) does not explicitly disclose second account and an amount to be paid from the first account to the second account; Picciallo ('360)discloses second account and an amount to be paid from the first account to the second account (column 5 lines 22-61). It would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Heindel et al. ('857)'s system with Picciallo ('360)'s teaching in order to limit the prosecution of fraudulent transactions.

Claims 59, 61 and 67-72 are not patentably distinct from claim 52 and are rejected for at least the same reasons.

As per claim 53,

Heindel et al. ('857) discloses the method of claim 52

Heindel et al. ('857) does not explicitly disclose conducting the financial transaction on a real time, on-line basis. Randle ('146) discloses conducting the financial transaction on a real time, on-line basis..(column 7, lines 10-20) It would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Heindel et al. ('857)'s system with Randle ('146)'s teaching in order to provide an efficient service to the customer.

As per claim 54,

Heindel et al. ('857) discloses the method of claim 52

wherein the first account number is a first bank account number, the first account is a first bank account, the second account number is a second bank account number.(Column 7, lines 16-50 – figure 3)

As per claim 55,

Heindel et al. ('857) discloses the method of claim 52

further comprising linking the second terminal identifier to the second account number in the intermediate database.(Column 7, lines 16-50 – figure 3)

As per claim 56,

Heindel et al. ('857) discloses the method of claim 52

Official Notice is taken that “wherein the second terminal identifier of a second communication device” is common and well known in prior art in reference to electronic transactions. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a terminal identifier as a device identifier in order to uniquely identify a client.

As per claim 57,

Heindel et al. ('857) discloses the method of claim 52

Official Notice is taken that “the first communication device is a cellular telephone.” is common and well known in prior art in reference to electronic transactions. It would have

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been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a cellular phone in order to create a mobile platform for initiating transactions.

As per claim 58,

Heindel et al. ('857) discloses the method of claim 52

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 52 further comprising communicating the fact of the transaction to the first communication device.(Column 7, lines 16-50 – figure 3)

As per claim 59,

Heindel et al. ('857) discloses the method of claim 56

communicating the fact of the transaction to the second communication device.(Column 7, lines 16-50 – figure 3)

As per claim 63,

Heindel et al. ('857) discloses a method for conducting financial transactions according to claim 52,

Heindel et al. ('857) does not explicitly disclose canceling the transaction when it is determined that sufficient funds are not available. Randle ('146) discloses canceling the transaction when it is determined that sufficient funds are not available.(column 10, lines 31-41)
It would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine

Heindel et al. ('857)'s system with Randle ('146)'s teaching in order to limit the prosecution of fraudulent transactions.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the pending claim have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M. Winter whose telephone number is (571) 272-6713. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6, 1st Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Fischer can be reached on (571) 272-6779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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John Winter

Patent Examiner -- 3621

/Jalatee Worjloh/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3621




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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/937,976	10/16/2003	Mark Russell Attieh	0073/65994	8950
7590		04/04/2008		
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			EXAMINER	
			WINTER, JOHN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			04/04/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of References Cited 	Application/Control No. 09/937,976	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination ATTIEH, MARK RUSSELL	
	Examiner JOHN M. WINTER	Art Unit 3621	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-4,532,417 A	07-1985	Nishimura et al.	235/379
*	B	US-5,970,479 A	10-1999	Shepherd, Ian K.	705/37
*	C	US-6,044,405 A	03-2000	Driscoll et al.	709/232
*	D	US-6,044,360 A	03-2000	Picciallo, Michael J.	705/21
*	E	US-6,134,536 A	10-2000	Shepherd, Ian Kenneth	705/37
*	F	US-6,912,510 B1	06-2005	Shepherd, Ian Kenneth	705/37
*	G	US-7,149,720 B2	12-2006	Shepherd, Ian K.	705/37
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
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	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.